FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force attacked another "large maritime target" in the Gulf on 31 December, scoring "accurate and effective" hits, the Iraqi military command announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes bombed "residential" areas in the Iranian border province of Ilam the following day, wounding seven people, according to IRNA. The raids followed earlier air attacks on the Bostan area of Khuzestan which killed 19 Iranians and injured over 100, the agency said.

Commenting on the Iraqi raids, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Dust warned Iraq that its attacks on Iranian residential areas will not go unanswered and that Iran's armed forces are awaiting orders to retaliate, according to IRNA. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service stressed that a military solution has become the only way to end the war, adding that Iran has not abandoned its military buildup and that Iraq will be unable to determine the time of the "expected Islamic attack" despite its monitoring equipment and intelligence service. Earlier, in a speech to Iranian military commanders reported by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned that Iran "really will close" the Strait of Hormuz and throw the world into a crisis. However, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz contended that Iran "cannot do that," asserting that its threat to close the Strait is "meaningless and hollow" because it would be the loser from such a move, according to INA.

Lebanon

Representatives of the Amal movement, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Lebanese Forces approved and signed the coastal road security plan at a 31 December Military Council meeting and the conferees also agreed to a timetable for its implementation, Beirut radio reported. The agreement provides for the entry of Internal Security Forces into the Al-Kharrub region this week, the withdrawal of gunmen and their heavy weapons from the area, followed by the Lebanese Army's deployment in the Al-Kharrub on 6 or 7 January, according to the radio. The conferees also agreed on a total cease-fire in the Al-Kharrub region starting late on 31 December.

Palestinian Affairs

Speaking at the 31 December funeral in Amman of Fahd Al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat blamed Syria for the assassination, asserting that the "Damascus rulers implemented the plot which the Israeli Zionists could not carry out," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser, subsequently claimed that Syria is seeking to "physically liquidate" all the legal PLO leaders, adding that several Palestinian dissident leaders based in Damascus have drawn up a hit list of officials loyal to 'Arafat, according to AFP. Nevertheless, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf urged the dissidents in Damascus to return to the ranks of the Palestinian revolution under the PLO umbrella, asserting that the PLO will allow "all those who followed the wrong path to return," KUNA reported.

Meanwhile, Damascus radio's Palestine Broadcast viewed Al-Qawasimi's assassination as an "alarm" about the great dangers that will threaten Palestinian action unless "practical formulas" are found to obstruct "hostile forces" from achieving their objectives and to prevent further intra-Palestinian fighting. While disclaiming any knowledge of which quarter was responsible for the assassination, the radio blamed 'Arafat and his colleagues for allowing "conspiratorial forces" to turn Palestinians against each other.

As for the appeal by Al-Qawasimi's family that he be buried in Hebron, Israel answered that it would be prepared to allow this if four IDF soldiers missing from the Lebanon war were located and returned, according to Jerusalem radio. A message to this effect was transmitted to the Jordanian Government through the Al-Qawasimi family menbers who left for Jordan on 30 December, but the subsequent funeral in Amman indicates that the proposal was rejected, the radio said. A procession mourning Al-Qawasimi clashed with Israeli security forces in Hebron on 1 January, the radio reported, and a bomb exploded in Jerusalem the same day, the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PLO.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan's King Husayn arrived in Riyadh on 1 January and was welcomed by King Fahd and other Saudi leaders, Riyadh radio reported. In their first round of talks, the two monarchs discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations, Amman television noted.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud in Damascus the same day, according to Damascus radio. Jallud conveyed a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Al-Asad asked the Libyan visitor to convey a reply message.

Sudan

During a visit to the southern town of Juba on 31 December, President Ja'far Numayri called on Ethiopia and other neighboring states to hold consultations to facilitate the repatriation of the "tens of thousands" of refugees who have entered Sudan, SUNA reported. He also urged southerners to participate in a "comprehensive democratic dialogue," directing this appeal especially at those who seek to "impose opinion by force." Numayri acknowledged that corruption and nepotism are prevalent in the administration of the southern region and told local officials to immediately tackle these problems.

However, a commentary by the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) stressed that there can be no dialogue between the SPLA and Numayri "until his corrupt and oppressive regime is eliminated."

As for the military situation in the south, the Sudanese military command announced that government troops killed 25 "outlaws" during a 29 December clash in an area near the Ethiopian border, according to SUNA.

Egypt

Coptic Pope — President Husni Mubarak issued a decree allowing Pope Shinudah to resume his official duties as of 1 January, Cairo radio announced.

Relations With Bulgaria — Egypt and Bulgaria have fully restored their diplomatic relations, Sofia radio reported on 31 December.

Libya

The Armed Forces commander in chief "issued a decision concerning the implementation" of the draft bill on military training approved by the Basic People's Congresses in 1984, Tripoli radio reported. The draft bill stipulates that every Libyan male or female capable of performing military training should do so.

Western Sahara

Polisario forces killed or injured over 100 Moroccan troops in further attacks on Moroccan defensive positions between 22 and 28 December, Algiers radio reported.

Pakistan-Afghanistan

A message from the DRA Foreign Ministry to the Pakistani authorities denied the latter's "completely untrue and ill-intentioned" allegation that Afghan aircraft bombed Pakistani territory on 25 December, BAKHTAR reported. A later message to the Pakistani authorities threatened "reciprocal action," according to BAKHTAR. In Islamabad, a Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman cited by Karachi radio denied press reports that a Pakistani aircraft was recently forced to land at an airport in Afghanistan, stressing that the Pakistani Air Force has scrupulously avoided violating the DRA's airspace.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 001 *2 January 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Cables Castro on Cuban Anniversary ..... C 1
Pakistan's Air Raid 'Allegations' Protested ..... C 1
'Reciprocal Action' Threatened ..... C 1
Meteorological Protocol Signed With USSR ..... C 1
Cultural, Scientific Agreement With GDR Signed ..... C 1
'Revolutionaries' Said To Kill Soviet Forces *[Tehran]* ..... C 1
Western Diplomat Cited on Attacks on Kabul *[AFP]* ..... C 2
Mujahidin Leader Interviewed in Peshawar *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 28 Dec]* ..... C 2
BAKHTAR Reports Security Force Successes ..... C 3

BANGLADESH

Ershad Greets Gandhi on Election Victory ..... D 1
Ershad Reaffirms Election To Be Held in April ..... D 1
Government Press Note Asserts Election Neutrality ..... D 1
Operations of Some Martial Law Units Terminated ..... D 1
Pakistani Statements 'Strongly Rejected' ..... D 1
India Expresses 'Regret' Over Election Posters ..... D 2
USSR Provides Materials for Flood Relief ..... D 2

INDIA

Gandhi Sets Helping Poor as 'Real Priority' ..... E 1
Gandhi Sees No Need for Deputy Ministers ..... E 1
Portfolios of New Council of Ministers Announced ..... E 1
Congress-I Not To Form Government in Karnataka ..... E 2
1 Killed as Police Disperse Karnataka Mob ..... E 2
Ramachandran Wins Reelection as Party Leader ..... E 2
3 Bangladeshis Killed Near Pakistani Border ..... E 2
$74-Million Trade Pact Signed With Bulgaria *[THE STATESMAN 19 Dec]* ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

AFP: Zia 'Hints' at February Legislative Elections ..... F 1
Zia Approves Space Research, Development Program *[DAWN 28 Dec]* ..... F 1
AFP: Biharis Continue To Protest Zia's Remarks ..... F 2
Leaders Demand Repatriation ..... F 2
Report of Forced Landing in Afghanistan Denied ..... F 3
New Military Courts To Be Established in Sind ..... F 3
UK Under Secretary Raison Arrives For Talks ..... F 3
U.S. Policy, National Defense Needs Analyzed *[JANG 20 Dec]* ..... F 3
Ordinances Issued for Islamization of Economy ..... F 4

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

King, Prime Minister Greet Gandhi on Victory ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Congratulates Gandhi on Election ..... G 1
Premadasa Urges Unity To Fight Terrorists ..... G 1
AFP: Tamil Militants Cut Railway to Jaffna ..... G 1
Athulathmudali on Military Training for Youths ..... G 2
Army Headquarters To Be Moved to Vavuniya ..... G 2

IRAN

Rafsanjani Reiterates Hormuz Strait Warning ..... I 1
Khamene'i Message Expresses Support for UNESCO ..... I 1
Khamene'i Instructs Iraqi Representative ..... I 1
President Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi ..... I 1
Musavi Criticizes 'Imperialist, Zionist' Media ..... I 2
Majlis Deputies Condemn U.S., USSR Policies ..... I 2
Iraq Launches Air Raid on Khuzestan Province ..... I 2
Warplanes Bombard Ilam Province ..... I 3
Minister Promises Retaliation for Iraqi Attacks ..... I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques ..... I 3
No 1,958 ..... I 3
No 1,959 ..... I 3
Expected Attack Against Iraq Examined ..... I 4
Tehran Paper Notes Troop Movements to Fronts *[Manama GULF DAILY NEWS 2 Jan]* ..... I 4
Musavi-Ardebeli on Hijackers, Tudeh Party ..... I 4
Chief Justice Blames Monafeqin for Tehran Blast ..... I 5
Commerce Minister, Turkish Envoy Discuss Trade ..... I 5
Gharazi: OPEC Meeting Strengthens Oil Market ..... I 5
Iraqi Security Forces Arrest Al-Basrah Students ..... I 5
Clandestine Broadcast on Tabriz Demonstrations *[Radio Nejat-e Iran]* ..... I 5
Clandestine Radio: New Offensive Against Iraq Set *[Radio Nejat-e Iran]* ..... I 6
Clandestine Radio: Khomeyni Worried Over Mashhad *[Radio Nejat-e Iran]* ..... I 6

Karmal Cables Castro on Cuban Anniversary

LD311837 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, has sent a telegram of congratulations on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

In the telegram, confidence is expressed that the Communist Party of Cuba, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, plays a valuable role in the struggle for safeguarding peace and for easing the present international tensions, which face mankind with danger. Assurance is expressed that the comprehensive fraternal relations between the parties, governments and peoples of the DRA and the Republic of Cuba, in their common struggle against imperialism and all forces of international reaction, are developing in the interest of international peace and security and on the basis of the interests of the peoples of both countries.

Pakistan's Air Raid 'Allegations' Protested

LD311400 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, 31 Dec (BAKHTAR) — The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning at 0930. The following message was given to him by the head of the First Political Department in the ministry:

Pakistani authorities, following their previous allegations, once again recently alleged that an Afghan aircraft had intruded into that country's airspace in the Imam Bustan area of Baluchistan on 22 December and that six other Afghan aircraft had intruded into its airspace in the Arandu area on 25 December and bombed the area.

According to information received from the DRA's relevant authorities, no such flight or air attacks have been made by aircraft of the DRA Armed Forces; these allegations of the Pakistani authorities are completely untrue and ill-intentioned, like their previous ones.

The DRA authorities strongly condemn such baseless allegations and hostile propaganda against the DRA, which have lately been intensified.

'Reciprocal Action' Threatened

LD021442 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned by the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1515 today, and the following statement was made to him by the official in charge of the First Political Section:

Despite the repeated warnings and protests which have been made as a result of artillery and rocket fire from inside Pakistan against the DRA, the Pakistani authorities have not only not ceased this hostile and provocative action, but have intensified it.

Between 24-29 December, 1984, the region of Barikot once again came under fire from heavy and long-range weapons, recoilless guns, mortars, and heavy machine guns from inside Pakistan, as a result of which 11 soldiers and 8 civilians, including women and children, were wounded and great damage was inflicted on residential homes.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again vigorously protests against these armed provocations and aggressions of the Pakistani authorities, and demands an end to these provocations as soon as possible. Otherwise, the DRA security forces will engage in a decisive and reciprocal action, and the responsibility of its consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Meteorological Protocol Signed With USSR

LD292144 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Excerpts] A protocol and an agreement on grant-in-aid by the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control to the Meteorological Department of the DRA Civil Aviation General Directorate for the years 1984-1988 were signed in Kabul this afternoon.

A spokesman for the General Directorate of Civil Aviation said that, according to this agreement and protocol, 108 specific items valued at 1 million rubles will be supplied to the Afghan side. Also, during this period, 15 experts from the friendly Soviet Union will arrive in the DRA to cooperate with Afghan experts in various fields of meteorology. Similarly, a number of cadres of the Meteorological Department of the DRA Civil Aviation will go to the Soviet Union to enhance their scientific knowledge.

Cultural, Scientific Agreement With GDR Signed

LD291740 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] An agreement on a program of scientific and cultural cooperation between the DRA and GDR was concluded today in Kabul between the relevant authorities of the two countries. On the basis of this program, which will be in force for 2 years from the date of its signing, reciprocal cooperation will take place in the fields of culture, higher education, general training, radio, television and the information agencies of the two countries.

'Revolutionaries' Said To Kill Soviet Forces

LD291223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] On the eve of Afghanistan's occupation by the Soviet Armed Forces, the Muslim revolutionaries have extended their operations against the occupying and governmental forces.

According to reports from Afghanistan, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have, in the last few days, killed 20 servicemen of the occupying forces during three separate operations within Kabul.

These operations were carried out at night during which the War Ministry [as heard] building of the Karmal regime, the living quarters of the Soviet forces, and also, Kabul airport received considerable damage following Muslim revolutionaries' attacks with heavy weapons.

Western Diplomat Cited on Attacks on Kabul
NC301051 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 30 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas attacked Kabul almost every day last week, though not as heavily as in recent years, apparently to mark the fifth anniversary of the Soviet intervention, a Western diplomat said here.

Rocket and mortar fire reached several districts between December 24 and 27, the diplomat added, quoting reports from the Afghan capital. Security measures, including increased patrols, had been unprecedented, he added.

The diplomat said heavy fighting had also continued in eastern Afghanistan, round the city of Jellalabad and in Paktia Province, where Soviet and Afghan Government forces were trying to cut guerrilla supply routes from Pakistan.

Resistance sources in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar have reported large-scale Soviet-Afghan operations there for the last two months.

In Kabul on December 24, guerrilla rocket fire hit a Soviet-occupied building, Bala Hissar, and the Barulaman District which includes the Afghan Defence Ministry, the diplomat said.

A rocket killed an Afghan French teacher at his home in Kabul's residential Sharanah District the next evening, and 16 mortar shells hit the old city on December 26, setting a state warehouse on fire, he said.

Several rockets hit Sharanah on December 27, the official anniversary date, and a series of large explosions shook Kabul the following evening, according to the Western diplomat.

The Afghan Islamic press said in Peshawar last Wednesday that shelling by 107-mm cannon left about 20 Soviet dead in the Barulaman and Microrayon districts, and the air base of Khwaja Rawash, between December 24 and 26.

The diplomat said 261 Soviet and Afghan Government troops were said to have been killed or wounded in Kabul in November, and five helicopters and two transport planes shot down.

In northern Afghanistan, 40 to 50 people were thought to have been killed in a bomb attack on a bazaar at Mazar-i-Sharif on December 5, the diplomat said.

Mujahidin Leader Interviewed in Peshawar
GF300740 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Dec 84 p 9

[Interview with Borhaneddin Rabbani, a leader of the Afghan resistance, by unidentified *AL-ITTIHAD* correspondent in Peshawar — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] After your 6 years of struggle against the Communist regime in Kabul, 5 of which you spent in direct conflict with the Soviet forces in Afghanistan, what is the status of the Jihad movement in Afghanistan?

[Answer] We are now into our sixth year of fighting against the occupationist Soviet forces. It is a bloody confrontation with a superpower that attacked us to impose a regime that we refuse and reject because it is against our beliefs and religion. We raised the banner of jihad and we will abide by it until victory over the aggressor.

[Question] Can you comment on the results of the Geneva conference and tell us why you were not represented in it?

[Answer] We have consistently stated that the Geneva conference was a waste of time. The participants in the conference are not directly involved in the problem. For example, Pakistan represents neither the Afghan resistance, nor Karmal's government, nor the Afghan people. The sides in this problem are the Afghan people themselves, represented by the Jihad movement in their resistance to the aggressor, the Soviet Union. Without the participation of these two directly involved sides any conference is futile.

The conditions under which the conference was held made it impossible for us to attend. The only aim of the Soviets now is to obtain recognition for the legitimacy of Karmal's government.

Involving Pakistan in the issue is a Soviet maneuver to show that Pakistan is involved in the cause.

However, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan reflected primarily on Pakistan, because an attack on the Muslim people in Afghanistan is a direct attack on the Muslim people in Pakistan. Moreover, the influx of millions of refugees to Pakistan infected Pakistan with the problem and forced its participation in the conference.

The proposals made by the Soviets during the conference do not serve as a basis for resolving the problem. All of the propaganda saying that 90 percent of the problem has been resolved are only Soviet rumors and are untrue. Frankly, we do not trust any pledge or agreement signed with the Soviets.

The only possible solution for us is the continuation of the holy war and the escalation of the military pressure on the occupationist forces until they are driven to deapair that their goals will ever be achieved. We are totally unwilling to eliminate the fighting spirit of the mujahidin by concentrating illusions on these conferences and its likes.

[Question] Does the Pakistani Government intend to suppress the resistance, particularly after the recent measures in Peshawar?

[Answer] The recent measures that were taken in Peshawar were organizational measures by the government of the region. We believe that any restriction on the Afghan mujahidin is harmful to the interests of the Pakistani and Afghan people and to the interests of the Soviet occupationists. The interest of the Muslim peoples is one and cannot be divided in any case.

BAKHTAR Reports Security Force Successes

LD311625 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a security forces source in Farah Province, reports that as a result of successful operations carried out recently in that province, 15 savage rebels were crushed and 10 criminals captured.

The security forces also seized 18 D.Sh.K's, one recoilless rifle, two missiles, 50 various types of weapons, 100,000 rounds of ammunition, and a number of antistate leaflets which expose their direct links.

Also, their several arms caches, 4 foodstuff and clothing depots and 3 medicine stores were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations by the brave security forces of Nimruz Province carried out in Khash Rud subdistrict of that province, nine armed rebels were eliminated and two D.Sh.K's, one rocket-launcher with a number of shells, three weapons, and a quantity of ammunition were seized from them.

Ershad Greets Gandhi on Election Victory

BK291723 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] President Ershad has extended his heartiest congratulations to the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on his party's decisive victory at the Indian election. In a message to Mr Gandhi, the president expressed his confidence that good relations that exist between Bangladesh and India will be further strengthened in the years to come on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Ershad Reaffirms Election To Be Held in April

BK300940 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has expressed his firm determination to hold elections in next April to establish democracy in the country. Addressing a huge public meeting at Thakurgaon today, the president said he has been making relentless efforts to establish democratic government to fulfill his pledge to the nation. He said his government has taken up the democratization process in right earnest by holding union parishad [council] and paura sabha [municipality] polls a year back. He said the upzilla [subdistrict] elections scheduled for March this year to complete the process of local body elections could not be held due to intransigence of certain political parties.

President Ershad said despite the presidential system of government provided for in the constitution, which calls for presidential election first, he has given parliamentary elections first to accommodate the viewpoints of some political parties and greater understanding in the political arena. He called upon the political parties to give up the negative politics and participate in the polls to seek the verdict of the people. Those who will be able to muster the confidence of the people will run the country, he added.

Government Press Note Asserts Election Neutrality

BK011644 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] The government has reiterated complete neutrality for all purposes of election and its determination to mete out equal treatment to all political parties. The official announcement contained in a press note issued in Dhaka this evening recalled President Ershad's address to the nation on the eve of the victory day last month, reiterating that no member of political parties will remain in the Cabinet following announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission. It also said parliament elections will be held on the basis of the suspended constitution prior to all other elections and the schedule of the president's election will be announced after the first session of the parliament.

In the light of the president's announcement, it also clarified that all fundamental rights and writ jurisdiction of the high courts will be restored and martial law will be withdrawn except some special martial law regulations required to avoid political vacuum. All matters including arrests, detention, trials, punishments, and pardon will be settled through conventional legal procedure.

The government announcement made it clear that all measures will be taken to ensure that the Election Commission conducts elections in an atmosphere free from all influence and prejudice.

The government announcement also said that the results of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliamentary] elections will be published in the gazette within 10 days of the election. The government expressed the hope that these clarifications will end all misgivings and all political parties and alliances will now come forward to take part in the elections with a view to ending martial law and ensuring transition to democracy.

The press note further said that the government and the Election Commission previously announced the election schedules two times but these had to be canceled for various reasons. Further cancellation of the election schedule will undermine the prestige of the country before the world. The government, therefore, hopes that various political parties and alliances will announce their decision about the elections soon so that the Election Commission should be clear about it and finally announce the election schedule.

Operations of Some Martial Law Units Terminated

BK311721 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] An official announcement said in Dhaka today that the position and offices of the district martial law administrators and the subzonal martial law administrators have been abolished immediately. The announcement further said that the special martial law tribunals will also cease to function with immediate effect.

Pakistani Statements 'Strongly Rejected'

BK311507 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Bangladesh has strongly rejected statements that the problems of the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh are the problems of Bangladesh. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that these statements are not in compliance with the agreements reached between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Such Pakistani statements have denied the human feelings of the negotiations held on this subject.

The spokesman said that being fully imbued with the Islamic and humanitarian feelings for these helpless members of the Islamic community, the Bangladesh Government has made all possible efforts with its limited resources to reduce their difficulties over the past 14 years. The spokesman said that Bangladesh, being inspired by humanitarian feelings and in the spirit of friendship and Islamic fraternity, is ready to solve this problem through mutual negotiations at the bilateral level or in any international forum.

India Expresses 'Regret' Over Election Posters
BK300240 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka said the government has already taken up with the Indian authorities the matters of showing Bangladesh as part of India in its election posters and observance of Eastern Command Day. The spokesman was clarifying yesterday the position regarding criticism by certain political personalities alleging government's inaction in this respect.

He said the Indian High Commission has expressed regret and mentioned that it has been a printing mistake. They also said the poster has not been issued by the Indian Government. It has been brought (?out) by the small section of the youth wing of the Congress Party.

The spokesman said this was not the first time that the Indian Eastern Command observed the day and the Foreign Office has already strongly made known our views about the matter to the Indian authorities.

He said Bangladesh has also raised the issue of Ganges waters at all international fora and enforcement of a (?consensus) decision. Efforts are underway to come to a settlement bilaterally.

USSR Provides Materials for Flood Relief
BK270306 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Soviet Union has provided a large amount of relief materials to carry out post-flood relief operations in Bangladesh. Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh V.G. Belyayev handed over these relief materials to Bangladesh Red Cross Society Chairman Major General Abdul Jabbar, retired, today. The relief materials include medical and nursing equipment and concentrated milk.

Speaking on the occasion, the Soviet ambassador said that the provision of these materials is a symbol of the Soviet people's goodwill toward the people of Bangladesh. The Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies jointly donated these materials.

Gandhi Sets Helping Poor as 'Real Priority'

BK010346 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the real priority of his government would be to improve the lot of the poor. In an interview with Radio Newsreel immediately after the swearing-in ceremony of the new Council of Ministers, he said the government will try to get the country to move even faster. Mr Gandhi said to do that we need unity, integrity, and a stronger country. He said we have to work together to improve the efficiency of the system and adopt new approaches and ideas.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi visited the Samadhi [grave] of Mrs Indira Gandhi soon after the swearing-in ceremony and paid homage at the Samadhi. The new cabinet also held a meeting yesterday evening.

Gandhi Sees No Need for Deputy Ministers

BK311619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Talking informally to reporters soon after the swearing-in ceremony, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said that he does not propose to have any deputy ministers. They were not being given any work. He will have only a two-tier ministry of cabinet ministers and ministers of state.

In reply to a question, he said that the efficiency and performance of the ministers will be watched. Those not coming up to expectations will be dropped. Asked if the ministry will be further expanded, he said he hoped to do so.

Answering another question, Mr Gandhi said that the party will have to be reorganized because some of the general secretaries have joined the Council of Ministers. Their vacancies will have to be filled.

The new cabinet met in New Delhi soon after the swearing-in ceremony. The meeting was presided over by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that there has been a certain amount of reorganization in the ministries and departments. The Energy Ministry has been split into three, with Petroleum under the independent charge of a minister of state. The Department of Power has been attached to Irrigation and the Department of Coal goes along with Steel and Mines. The Education Ministry is now entrusted to a minister of cabinet rank, indicating the importance attached to this by the prime minister.

Portfolios of New Council of Ministers Announced

BK311624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The new Union Council of Ministers headed by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was sworn in at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] this evening. The president, Giani Zail Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers.

Mr S.B. Chavan is Home minister in the new council. Mr Narasimha Rao takes over Defense with temporary charge of Planning. Finance has gone to Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh. The prime minister will continue to hold the External Affairs portfolio. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh has returned to the union cabinet after a break of a few months.

Three others have also been brought back to the central government. Mr Ashoke Sen has been appointed minister for Law and Justice, Mr Bansi Lal Railway minister, and Mr K. C. Pant Education minister. Mr Abdul Ghafoor, former chief minister of Bihar, has taken over Works and Housing. Mr H. K. L. Bhagat has been promoted to cabinet rank and given the charge of Parliamentary Affairs. Other cabinet ministers with their portfolios are: Mr Shankaranand, Irrigation and Power; Mr Buta Singh, Agriculture and Rural Development; Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, Health and Family Welfare; Rao Birendra Singh, Food and Civil Supplies; Mr Vasant Sathe, Steel, Mines, and Coal; and Mr Virendra Patil, Chemicals and Fertilizers.

The prime minister will, in addition to External Affairs, hold charges of a number of subjects. These are Commerce and Supplies, Industry and Company Affairs, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Electronics, Ocean Development, Space, Environment and Forest, Culture, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Youth Affairs, Sports, and other subjects not allotted to other ministers.

The outgoing cabinet ministers who do not figure in today's list are: Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr Ghani Khan Choudhury, Mr Jagannath Kaushal, Mr Shiv Shankar, and Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. Mr Shiv Shankar and Mr Reddy have lost in the elections.

There are 25 ministers of state in the new Council of Ministers. There are many new faces among them. Six ministers of state will hold independent charge. They include the former Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr Anjaiah, who will be in charge of Labor. Mr V.N. Gadgil will hold independent charge of Information and Broadcasting; Mr Z. R. Ansari of Shipping and Transport; Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, Communications; Mrs M. Chandrashekhar, Women and Social Welfare; and Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma, Petroleum.

The new entrants among other ministers of state and their portfolios are: Mr Arun Nehru, Power; Mr Madhavrao Scindia, Railways; Mr K. R. Narayanan, former diplomat, Planning; Mr Natwar Singh, also a former diplomat, Steel; Mrs Margaret Alva, Parliamentary Affairs; Mr R. K. Jai Chandra Singh, Youth Affairs and Sports; Mr H. R. Bhardwaj, Law and Justice; Mr Bir Sen, Environment and Forest. Mr Chandulal Chandrakar returned to the Council of Ministers and he will be minister of state for Rural Development.

Four former deputy ministers have been promtoed as ministers of state. Mr Ashok Gehlot has been given Tourism and Civil Aviation; Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, Parliamentary Affairs; Mr Janardhana Poojary, Finance; Mr P. S. Sangma, Commerce and

Supplies. Other ministers of state and their portfolios are: Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, External Affairs; Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, Industry and Company affairs; Mr K. P. Singh Deo, Personnel, Administrative Reforms, and Culture; Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, Home; Mr Yogendra Makwana, Health; and Mr Shiv Raj Patil, Science and Technology, Ocean Development, Atomic Energy, Space, and Electronics. Mr Chandrakar and Mr Sangma could not be sworn in today.

Twelve former ministers of state do not figure in today's list. They are: Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, Mrs Shiela Kaul, Mr N. K. P. Salve, Mr Jaffar Sharief, Mr A. A. Rahim, Mr S. M. Krishna, Mr Venkatasubbaiah, Mr Dalbir Singh, Mr Harinath Mishra, Mr N. R. Laskar, Mr Pratabhi Rama Rao, and Mr Gargi Shankar Mishra. Three of them — Mr Krishna, Mr Venkatasubbaiah, and Mr Harinath Mishra — have lost in the elections.

The Council of Ministers has a strength of 40, including the prime minister. Later, three parliamentary secretaries were sworn in by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. They are: Mr Arun Singh, Mr Oscar Fernandes, and Mr Ahmad Patel. All three of them will work in the prime minister's office.

Congress-I Not To Form Government in Karnataka

BK311603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The Congress-I says it is not interested in forming a government in Karnataka, where the chief minister, Mr Hegde, has resigned. The All-India Committee Congress-I general secretary, Mr Chandrakar, said the decision was taken by the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

1 Killed as Police Disperse Karnataka Mob

BK011242 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] In Karnataka, 1 person was killed and 10 injured when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob in Bagalkot town of Bijapur District today. The clash occurred over the selection of candidates for president and vice presidentship of the local municipality for which election was held today.

Ramachandran Wins Reelection as Party Leader

BK310924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, was reelected leader of the All-India Anna Dravida Munetra Kazhagam legislature party at a meeting. The finance minister, Mr V.R. Neduchezhiyan, presided. The party's members of parliament were also present. Seven members of the party's parliamentary board are meeting the governor to convey to him the news about Ramachandran's election as leader.

3 Bangladeshis Killed Near Pakistani Border

BK020318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] In Punjab, three nationals of Bangladesh were killed and six others injured when they were attacked by a group of villagers near the Pakistan border in Amritsar District. The villagers suspected them to be terrorists. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh last evening that a group of about 50 Bangladesh nationals desirous of crossing over to Pakistan illegally were brought to Amritsar by an unidentified contractor who abandoned them near Amritsar. The police have arrested 46 of the Bangladesh nationals under the Passport Act. Besides, the spokesman said, 30 villagers have also been apprehended on charges of murder and assault. Police are investigating the case. The police in charge of Sarhari police station has been suspended for not taking timely action to prevent the incident.

$74-Million Trade Pact Signed With Bulgaria

BK270205 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Dec 84 p 15

[By "Our Special Representative"]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 18 — A trade protocol for the first half of 1985 signed by Bulgaria and India today provides for a turnover of $74 million, 30 percent more than the trade figure for the first half of 1984.

India exported goods worth $26.2 million to Bulgaria between May and December, 1984, and imported goods worth $26.1 million during the period.

The next meeting of the Indo-Bulgarian working group on trade will take place in June, 1985, and will review the performance of the two-way trade in the first 6 months of the year as well as supplement the lists of imports and exports based on this performance.

AFP: Zia 'Hints' at February Legislative Elections

HK310934 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 31 (AFP) — Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq hinted today that legislative elections may be held some time in February, after a 32-day campaign without public meetings.

General Zia, who won a referendum on December 19 which confirmed him as president for five years, added in an interview in the daily *THE MUSLIM* that political parties would not be able to offer candidates.

Parties have been banned in Pakistan since 1979. General elections would be the first since the 1977 military coup which brought Gen Zia to power.

Gen Zia told the paper he was "indirectly" in contact with conservative factions in several opposition parties, in order to obtain their "participation in the process of the re-establishment of democracy."

Martial law, he said, would remain in effect for "several months" after elections, and he intended to remain Army chief of staff until martial law was lifted, he added.

Gen Zia did not refer in the interview to his proposed "Islamic democracy" and presidential regime, and did not say who would be candidates in the elections.

The December 19 referendum, which gave Gen Zia 97 percent approval in a 60 percent turnout of the 34.8 million eligible voters, according to official figures, authorised an extension of Islamic law.

The 11-party opposition Movement for Restoration of Democracy, which condemned the referendum, said the nation-wide turnout was under 10 percent.

Zia Approves Space Research, Development Program

GF300750 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Dec 84

[Text] Karachi, Dec 27: A four-point long-term programme for the development of space science and technology — which includes the launching of Pakistani communications satellite — was approved, in principle, by the Space Research Council (SRC), at a three-hour meeting chaired by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq on Thursday.

It was officially stated after the meeting that the SRC had been informed by Mr Salim Mehmud, chairman of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), that a detailed feasibility study on the communications satellite had already been prepared and was at present being examined by experts.

Mr Mehmud briefed the SRC about the salient features of the feasibility study.

The SRC directed SUPARCO to place the findings of the communications satellite feasibility study, together with the experts' report, before the Federal Cabinet for a final decision on this matter.

The SUPARCO chairman later told newsmen that the feasibility study was being scrutinised by "experts from the relevant departments", and their report would be placed before the Federal Cabinet in about two months.

The SRC, which met here for the first time on Thursday, is the nation's top policy-making body on space science and technology, and the president is its chairman.

The meeting of the SRC was attended, among others, (besides the president and SUPARCO chairman) by Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Federal Communications Minister, Mohyuddin Baluch, Federal Planning and Development Minister Mahbubul Haq, presidential adviser for science and technology, Dr M.A. Kazi and Cabinet secretary Zahoor Azar.

The meeting reviewed the progress made by SUPARCO during the past four years (following a reorganization under a presidential ordinance issued in 1981 which upgraded it from a committee into a full-fledged autonomous commission).

The main agenda item related to the long-term space science and technology development programme, which has been formulated by SUPARCO.

This programme essentially comprises the following four components:

Establishment of satellite ground receiving stations capable of transmitting to and receiving signals from overhead satellites, including meteorological, and earth resources data and pictures, communications signals, scientific information, etc.

Setting up satellite-cum-rocket tracking stations, equipped with computerised radar and optical devices, including laserranging;

Launching of Pakistan's national communications (voice and TV) satellites in geo-synchronous orbit (i.e. one main satellite and a sister back-up machine, in stationary orbit over the earth's equator, thereby providing constant 24-hour coverage to Pakistan; and

Development of the capability to assembly, fabricate and launch light-weight satellites (250-350 kilograms) for natural resource surveys and communication purposes in near-earth orbits.

Approving this four-point programme, in principle, the SRC directed SUPARCO to continue with the implementation of projects under its overall objectives.

The SRC felt that the above programme was aimed at developing a strong base for space science and technology in Pakistan over the next 10 years, and this will contribute towards the socio-economic uplift of sciety as a whole.

Each component of the programme will lead to a distinct capability in the field of space research.

Mr Azar briefed the SRC on the progress made by SUPARCO in its reorganizational work.

Mr Mehmud made a presentation on the scientific and technological search programme, and briefed the meeting on the present status of the domestic communication satellite project (PAKSAT), the under construction ground receiving station at Islamabad (capable of receiving pictures direct from the US (LANDSAT series of satellites and the about-to-be-launched French 'Spot' satellite), and such ancillary subjects as cooperation between SUPARCO and other international agencies.

An agreement has already been signed with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the receipt of "LANDSAT" pictures at Islamabad, and talks are under way with France on a similar arrangement.

The three-hour meeting took place at SUPARCO's Space and Atmospheric Research Centre (SPARCENT), near the Karachi University campus.

Later, President Zia and the other SRC members were escorted to an exhibition hall, where they saw a number of instrument fabricated wholly or partially and the SUPARCO instrumentation laboratories and at SPARCENT, as well as charts and satellite pictures.

Later, addressing SUPARCO scientists and staff at the SPARCENT auditorium, President Zia said SUPARCO was an organisation which held "great significance" for a developing country like Pakistan.

While financial constraints were a challenge to the Pakistan space research programme, he expressed confidence that SUPARCO scientists and technicians had the ability to overcome this handicap.

He observed that though the Pakistani space research and exploration programme had lagged behind due to neglect of previous governments, his administration was determined to give SUPARCO all possible backing and encouragement so as to make up for lost time.

In his nearly 10-minute speech, the president called for the establishment within five years of a SUPARCO-run training institute (similar to PINSTECH) [Pakistan Institute of Technology], where young Pakistan scientists would receive grounding in space research.

He also said SUPARCO had a great potenial for future development.

Later, in his comments in the visitors' book, he said: "We have high hopes in this organisation", and added that under the able and dedicated leadership of its chairman, SUPARCO would fulfil these hopes.

AFP: Biharis Continue To Protest Zia's Remarks
NC291414 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Dec 29 (AFP) — Repatriated Biharis protested violently here today for the second day running at reported remarks by Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq over the future of thousands of Biharis stranded in Bangladesh.

The demonstrators blocked roads and forced the closure of shops and businesses in their settlements in Karachi's Orangi township.

Police dispersed the stone-throwing protestors several times with baton charges and teargas shells, but the demonstrators reassembled at other points and shouted anti-government slogans.

They were demanding an apology for the president's remarks, as well as the implementation of immediate measures to repatriate the rest of the Bihari community from Bangladesh.

The Biharis, who originally migrated to East Pakistan at the time of the partition of British India in 1947, refused to renounce their Pakistani nationality when East Pakistan seceded and became Bangladesh after the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

According to official estimates, about 170,000 Biharis have already moved to Pakistan from Bangladesh, but several hundred thousand more are said to be stranded in refugee camps in Dhaka.

On Thursday, General Ziaul Haq told reporters that the problems caused by the influx should not be "our headache."

"It is Bangladesh's problem, as Biharis are their nationals," he said. Gen Ziaul Haq was also quoted as describing the Biharis as "beggars."

Leaders Demand Repatriation
NC301324 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Karachi, Pakistan, Dec 30 (AFP) — The unofficial death toll in violence involving ethnic Biharis rose to six today, as sporadic demonstrations continued in protest at reported remarks about the Biharis by President Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

Four persons including a policeman were reported to have died in yesterday's clashes between the Bihari demonstrators and police in the Orangi (?slum) area of Karachi, and two more were said to have died of their injuries in hospital today.

Official figures put the death toll at two.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent, who toured the affected areas this morning, found the Orangi roads blocked by demonstrators with burning tires and oil drums.

Thousands of people were crowded onto main roads, and some marchers were chanting slogans for the repatration of an estimated several hundred thousand Biharis in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Two leaders of the Bihari community in Karachi, Hasib Hashmi and Umer Alam, told AFP they were not satisfied with the official clarification of the president's remarks.

They demanded that the government should announce within the next three days a programme for the repatriation of the stranded Biharis, whom they described as Pakistanis, from Bangladesh.

They warned that if the government failed to meet their demands, the demonstrations would continue and would spread to other parts of Karachi.

Mr Hasib Hashmi, the president of the Tehrike-Ittemad-Pakistan (Movement for the Unity of Pakistan), also demanded that about 90 persons who had been arrested by police during the past three days should be released.

He said that about 40 Biharis had been injured in police baton charges and teargassing of demonstrators.

Report of Forced Landing in Afghanistan Denied

BK011024 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that there was no truth in the report published in a section of the press that a Pakistani aircraft had been forced to land at Baghlan airport in Afghanistan and that its crew members had been taken into custody. The spokesman said that Pakistan Air Force scrupulously refrained from violations of airspace of its neighboring state.

A Defense Ministry spokesman has also denied the report and stated that no Pakistani aircraft — civil or military — is missing.

New Military Courts To Be Established in Sind

BK301553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] The Sind martial law administrator has issued martial law order No 252, under which military courts established under Martial Law Orders No 235, 239, 249, and 250 will be reorganized and new military courts established.

UK Under Secretary Raison Arrives For Talks

BK021026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] The British under secretary for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Mr Timothy Raison, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a week-long visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he would have talks with Pakistani officials on matters of bilateral interest. The Afghanistan problem would also figure at the talks.

In reply to a question, he said he would visit the poppy growing area in the Northwest Fronter Province and see the steps being taken by the Pakistan Government for crop substitution.

U.S. Policy, National Defense Needs Analyzed

GF301644 Lahore JANG in Urdu 20 Dec 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Justification for Pakistan's Defense Needs"]

[Text] While addressing a meeting of the World Affairs Council, Michael Armacost, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, has, keeping in view the defense needs of Pakistan and the current background of South Asia, expressed his views on such affairs which directly concern Pakistan. Michael Armacost in his speech, inter alia, made special mention of the Soviet threat, the justification for the defense needs of Pakistan, the creditable role played by Pakistan as a leader of the Islamic world, the safeguarding of American interests in South Asia, India's concern over arms purchases by neighboring countries, and the cooperation of both India and Pakistan in the non-proliferation of nuclear arms.

This is not the first time that a high-ranking official of the American regime has expressed his views on the defense needs of Pakistan and other related matters owing to the changing conditions in the region. Similar expressions have been made several times by several high-ranking officials of the United States including President Reagan. The interesting thing is that these statements reiterate more or less the same views and these views explain the basic policies of the American regime toward Pakistan.

Pakistan has from the very beginning been following a policy which leans toward the free world to the extent that we have even participated in some agreements with the United States. In the course of this period there have been occasions when the United States under the terms of these agreements should have come to our help and support, but the fact is that when the need arose, these agreements and accords proved of no avail. This resulted in a long period of coolness in U.S.-Pakistani relations and Pakistan was compelled to turn to alternative sources for its defense needs. However, such defense aids neither met our defense needs nor were they according to the demands of the time. Finally, there was another agreement between Pakistan and the United States in 1981 in the field of economic and defense cooperation. The fact is that even after this agreement, the United States continues to harbor mental reservations which puzzle any intelligent human being.

The United States, considering Pakistan as leader of the Islamic countries and in view of the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, thinks that Pakistan is justified in acquiring arms for its defense needs. However, it also justifies India's concern over the amount of arms in neighboring countries. The problem is that the United States is pretending Socratic irony. Compared with the arms which Pakistan is getting from the United States, India has acquired many times more arms, tanks, guns, aircraft, missiles, and other military hardware from the Soviet Union and other European countries. Moreover, the United States has also signed an agreement with India with regard to the supply of modern defense technology. The United States also knows that India has a defense pact with the Soviet Union and while buying modern arms, it is also acquiring modern technology.

The same is also true in respect of the nuclear capabilities of the two countries. Pakistan was not able to meet its daily growing energy needs even as India tested its atomic device. Pakistan wants to obtain nuclear energy to meet its needs and use it in the economic welfare, but so much hostile propaganda has been let loose against this peaceful program that it has become difficult to pursue it any further. India has even refused to accept the terms and conditions of inspecting its atomic installations. This is causing great concern in its neighboring countries. All countries including the United States are aware of this fact, and it is therefore very surprising that the American leadership should make a mention of the Indian concern. Although Michael Armacost has referred to the need for Pakistan-India cooperation in the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, it is certain that he is not unaware of Pakistan's draft resolution in the United Nations in this connection and the Indian reaction toward it. India, along with some other countries, voted against it.

If India is concerned about American arms for Pakistan, then why does it not accept a nonaggression pact offered by Pakistan. If such a pact is signed, then the danger of a clash between the two countries will disappear. As regards the question of safeguarding American interests in South Asia, the United States will find a guarantee for the protection of its interests only if it brings about a meaningful change in its policy toward South Asia. In any case, effective steps should be taken by Pakistan to safeguard its own security.

Ordinances Issued for Islamization of Economy

BK011513 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq today promulgated two ordinances aimed at providing a mechanism to convert the national economy to an interest-free system. The mechanism being adopted under these ordinances will bring about radical changes in the present system without disturbing the stability of the economy. These history-making ordinances will not only Islamize but also strengthen the economy, and will prove a landmark in the process of Islamization. The ordinances, which were formally signed by the president in Rawalpindi today, will be effective starting tomorrow. Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the secretaries in the Ministries of Finance and Law and Justice were also present on the occasion.

The ordinance promulgated today are: Banking Tribunal Ordinance 1984 and the Banking and Financial Services Amendment of Laws Ordinance 1984. The enforcement of these ordinances has brought the process of Islamization of the financial sysem and the economy to an important turning point. The amendments in the relevant federal and provincial laws will mark a new era in the functioning of Pakistan's financial system which will strengthen the country's economic system at the grassroots level and promote equality on the basic Islamic principle of repaying in kind for an act of kindness.

NEPAL

King, Prime Minister Greet Gandhi on Victory

BK301530 Katmandu External Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] His majesty the King has sent a message of warm congratulations to Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India, on his reelection to the Parliament of India with an unprecedented majority.

In the message his majesty has wished Mr Gandhi all success in his efforts in the coming years to maintain the integrity and stability of India and the confidence that under his leadership relations between Nepal and India will grow from strength to strength, contributing to the cause of peace and stability of the region together with the prosperity of the people of both countries.

Similarly, Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand has sent a message of warmest congratulations to Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India, on his reelection to the Indian Parliament with an impressive majority. In the message Mr Chand has wished the people of India greater success and prosperity under Mr Gandhi's leadership and earnestly hoped that the cordial relations based on age-old friendship and cooperation between Nepal and India will be further strengthened in the years to come for our mutual benefit.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Congratulates Gandhi on Election

BK301122 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene in a message to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has congratulated him on the unequivocal mandate that he had received from the people of India. Mr Jayewardene has said that the democratic exercise just concluded reaffirmed the confidence the people of India had in Mrs Gandhi and now have in her son's dynamic leadership. Sri Lanka, which shares the values of participatory democracy and rule by the free ballot, welcomes the verdict of the Indian people.

The president has welcomed the opportunity of being able to continue to work closely with India in a spirit of friendship and cooperation within the framework of the traditional ties that link the two countries.

Mr Jayewardene has noted that Mr Gandhi, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and the leadership of an important member of the international community drawing upon the ancient and rich philosophical traditions of India, would make an important and distinctive contribution toward peace and stability.

The president has extended his warm felicitations on behalf of the government and the people of Sri Lanka as well as personally to Mr Gandhi and has wished him success in the service of the people of India.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa has also congratulated Mr Gandhi on his success in the election by which, he says, the people of India have confirmed their confidence in Mr Gandhi's leadership.

Mr Premadasa has conveyed his sincere good wishes for Mr Gandhi's personal well-being as well as for India's continued progress under his leadership.

Premadasa Urges Unity To Fight Terrorists

BK011111 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has said that we should be determined to restore peace in our country before long. To achieve this objective he called upon everyone to form a single front irrespective of politics, religion, caste, community and class and support the cause of defeating terrorism.

The prime minister has reiterated the government's firmness to preserve national unity and integrity in the new year. Remarking that terrorism had driven all joyous thoughts from the minds of the people, he emphasized that we should not allow even an inch of our land to be grabbed by the terrorists or any other foreign force. We are dedicated to win the battle through strategy and wisdom. The terrorists may not believe in justice, fair play and obedience to law, but the democratic government believes in these. We have to fight against them in the background of these principles. We always bow to public opinion and obey the wishes of the people.

Mr Premadasa said that if we commit any injustice, we are unable to avoid being condemned by the rest of the world. The intention of the terrorists is to make us perpetrate and cause injustice before the eyes of the whole world. They try to isolate us from the rest of the world. We have been able to prove to the world that the intentions and actions of the terrorists are totally inappropriate and unjustified.

The prime minister ended with the hope that the people of Sri Lanka will be able to enjoy peace and happiness in the new year.

AFP: Tamil Militants Cut Railway to Jaffna

HK021140 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] Colombo, Jan 2 (AFP) — Tamil militants have blown up a 30-foot-long railway culvert south of Jaffna, effectively cutting off rail traffic to the northern capital and beyond, the state ministry said.

Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis said the Sri Lanka Cabinet today reviewed reports of the blowing up of the rail track early yesterday between Kodikaman and Palali.

"Terrorists" appear to want to cut off supplies to the north, thus starving the civilian population, he said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the militants mistakenly believed blowing up the rail line would affect supplies to the

troops battling them in the northern Jaffna peninsula. Mr Athulathmudali said the troops were not affected but the civilian population would suffer. The troops would be supplied by sea, air and road, Mr de Alwis told newsmen.

Railway authorities said it would take over a week to repair damage to the culvert and for normal rail services to resume.

Over the weekend, militants tried to blow up the main train from Colombo to the north by laying about 400 kilograms (880 pounds) of explosives along nearly 200 yards (182 meters) of track, security sources said.

But they said a major disaster was averted when security forces, acting on a tip-off, discovered the explosives close to the same area where the culvert was blown up yesterday.

Militants among Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority are waging a bloody campaign for a separate state in the north and east, where most of the country's Tamils live. A total of 409 people have been killed in Sri Lanka by official count since the latest wave of separatist violence began on November 19.

Meanwhile, officials said separatists have recently attacked court houses in the Jaffna peninsula and threatened judges.

Courts in Mallakam and Chavakachcheri were attacked by armed separatists who smashed up furniture and office equipment, police reports said.

One judge in the north had received a death threat from a group called the Tamil Eelam People's Organisation, officials said, adding that he had been told not to proceed with cases dealing with land disputes and land boundary matters.

Athulathmudali on Military Training for Youths
BK301123 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that the youths of this country will have to be given a military training before long. He was speaking at a passing out parade of senior school cadets at St Thomas College Kurtalava yesterday. We should not be afraid of the presence ofterrorist camps in Tamil Nadu. The government was prepared to train 100 soldiers for every person undergoing training in Tamil Nadu.

Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that the people of this country were ready to fulfill their duties for the future generation in the current situation. Everything will be done to protect the unitary status of the country. Those who attempted to divide the country will not at all achieve their objectives.

The minister thanked the people for maintaining peace and requested them to maintain this in the future. He emphasized that the maintenance of peace helped very much in eradicating terrorism.

Army Headquarters To Be Moved to Vavuniya
BK251357 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 25 Dec 84

[Excerpts] A real leadership of a country is not to have more enemies but to increase the number of friendly nations. President Jayewardene, as leader of Sri Lanka, has been able to do so. He has made it clear not only to the country, but to whole world the nature of the present situation and the action the people should take. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, made these observations at a ceremony held at the Gangarama Vihara at Daela in Mistirigala yesterday.

Referring to the program of eradicating terrorism, he said that, if necessary, he was ready even to arm the whole country and to launch the antiterrorist campaign from Vavuniya to Point Pedro. He reiterated that the fight today was not against the Tamil people. It was only an antiterrorist campaign.

Mr Athulathmudali noted that a program of action was being implemented internationally on terrorist training camps in Tamil Nadu. We had been able to prove to the world that the government and the people of Sri Lanka were acting democratically by presenting proposals to the all-party conference. The Tamil United Liberation Front has already rejected them. The final decision of implementing these proposals would be taken by the people. The minister also said that he would place his views on this matter before the Cabinet.

Mr Athulathmudali disclosed that the Army headquarters would be taken to Vavuniya within the next few weeks. The deputy minister of Youth Affairs and Employment, Gamini Athukorale, also addressed the ceremony.

Rafsanjani Reiterates Hormuz Strait Warning

LD311729 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 31, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran has paid a heavy price for the war with Iraq but said the war is its "existence".

"The war has cost a heavy price for us (Iran) in material and in human resources. About a third of our national budget is spent for the war," Rafani said to a group of ground forces commanders Monday.

"You know this," he added, "but the war is our existence."

"Right now America and the Russians and the enemies of Islam want this war to be in a stalemate," he said.

"(They want) the war fronts to be cold and silent and this hostile and antagonistic state (between Iran and Iraq) to remain and to be on top of us, blackmailing us all the time."

Rafsanjani, who is also one of Imam Khomeyni's representatives to the Supreme Defence Council, said the army commanders could turn against America its own trap of war against Iran.

"We have to decide for ourselves. There is nothing in this world that could stop the will of a nation and we are the ones who must make the effective strike," he added.

The Majlis speaker was speaking on the third day of a seminar held by the commanders of the ground forces, attended also be Colonel 'Ali Sayyad Shirazi, the ground forces commander.

He said if Iran had not stood firmly on its threat to block the Strait of Hormuz in case its oil exports came to halt by Iraqi attacks, Iran's enemies "would have pulled Khark island out of our hands a long time ago."

"We will really close the Strait of Hormuz", he warned and "we will throw the world into a crisis that would be impossible to come out of."

"Its not that difficult to close the Strait of Hormuz" for the Iranian Muslim combatants who have carried out so many spectacular attacks against the Iraqi forces, Rafsanjani said.

Khamene'i Message Expresses Support for UNESCO

LD011432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] At a meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation and UNESCO's director general at that organization's building in Paris, the adviser to our country's minister of foreign affairs submitted the written message of President Khamene'i to Amadou Mahtar M'bow, the director general of that organization. Following the meeting, during which they discussed and exchanged views on UNESCO's current affairs and the United States' official withdrawal from that organization, the advisor to our minister of foreign affairs in an interview said: The meeting was important, as we submitted the special message from our president and officially announced the unreserved support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Mr M'bow, the director general of UNESCO. This occurred on the day the United States officially withdrew from UNESCO — the director general of UNESCO is a Muslim and the United States was not able to impose its will on him.

About the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO, he said: The United States'withdrawal from that organization has not been easy, and it follows the continued policies and actions taken by the United States based on that country's complete dominance over world and international organizations. The United States does not accept an organization which it does not dominate. He said: At its meeting with UNESCO's director general, the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation mentioned that UNESCO is at present going through a sensitive period and should not submit to pressure. Member-countries and especially Third World and Islamic countries should help UNESCO's director general, and should not allow the United States to toy with this organization.

The adviser to our minister of foreign affairs, who was speaking following his meeting with the UNESCO director general, added: Obviously the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been the forerunner of such acts of resistance — in this case Iran was among the first countries to warn of the danger — wishes to announce its complete support — financial and spiritual — for UNESCO, and is ready to confront this new conspiracy by the United States. He said: Because the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys the respect of deprived nations, this is particularly important.

Khamene'i Instructs Iraqi Representative

LD011429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, met and conferred with President Khamene'i this morning. A report was presented to the president on the performance of the Supreme Assembly of Iraq's Islamic revolution, and on issues concerning Iraqi tribes and Iraqi Kurds. In this meeting, the president issued necessary guidelines on the issues which they discussed.

President Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD010836 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i received the Libyan leader Col. Al-Qadhdhafi's special envoy here Monday evening.

During the meeting, Col. al-Qadhdhafi's special envoy presented a written message from the Libyan leader to President Khamene'i.

The message, explaining present situation of OPEC, stressed further unity of opinion in the organisation and full coordination in connection with oil production as well as for the strengthening and stabilisation of OPEC's stance.

Musavi Criticizes 'Imperialist, Zionist' Media

LD291649 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Isfahan, Dec. 29, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Saturday said that news agencies of international arrogance were abusing their modern facilities to distort realities and fabricate news.

The prime minister, in his inaugural message to the second annual seminar of overseas representatives of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY opened here Saturday, noted that imperialist news media which were in fact tools of imperialist and Zionist powers, disseminate such news as dictated by the world powers.

Today, the prime minister stressed, such news media were no longer considered as appropriate means of news distribution, but rather functioned as tools to promote imperialist values and objectives.

Imperialist and Zionist news media today not only have the responsibility of concealing international plots against economic and spiritual interests of oppressed masses, but are vehicles for materialisation of dangerous objectives to strip nations in Asia, Africa, Latin America and even in Europe and America of values which ensured their indentities and their unity.

Referring to important role of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, the prime minister said that its significance would become clear when the effect and quantity of cultural imperialistic news was taken into consideration.

He stressed that mass media in Iran, as the voice of the Islamic revolution, have so far been able to thwart these plots to which Imam Khomeyni referred to as even more dangerous than military plots.

Therefore, he added, news media in Iran should not fear strategems of international news media against them and should continue their work vigilantly.

The prime minister wished for the success of the participants and hoped that the seminar would take a positive step in further coordinating ways to convey the message of the Islamic revolution and Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRNA's managing director Dr. Kamal Gharrazi said that the big powers exploit the media as a tool for perpetuating their domination over weaker nations and the third world countries. He said the bulk of news and news reports by the more influential news agencies of the world about the third world is principally reflection on calamities and afflictions in those countries as though such incidents were the only developments worth reporting in those countries.

He said to cope with the situation the Islamic Republic must develop a technical capability in terms of manpower and hardware and also try to invest more resources and employ the more subtle forms of the art in addressing itself to the world. The seminar of IRNA's foreign-assigned reporters is to continue here until the end of the week.

Majlis Deputies Condemn U.S., USSR Policies

LD011713 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani speaking in the open session of the Majlis here today congratulated the Christian world on the occasion of new year and expressed hope that Christians would implement teachings of Christ (A.S.). He further hoped that followers of Christ (A.S.) would exert pressure on the world oppressors who under the pretext of Christianity, are doing injustice, to stop fanning flames of war, massacre of people, and spreading corruption.

The first speaker of the session was the deputy from Babol, Mazandaran Province. He said that eastern and western powers think in vain that the Iranian (?people) would give up through such actions.

The deputy from Kordkuy, Mazandaran Province, Mohammad Baqer Dawoudi, who commented on the anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, said that after five years of occupation now it has become clear that the Red Army is unable to crush the struggle of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin. He further added that now the armed struggle of the Muslim mujahidin has reached its peak and warned that the oppressors should know that the Afghanistan and Palestine crises were Islamic issues and called for support of all Muslims.

Hojat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali from the holy city of Qom, said that re-election of Ronald Reagan as U.S. President was the tragedy of history. Following his re-election, he announced the U.S.'s unconditional support for the Zionist regime, and has been openly backing it in its occupation of southern Lebanon.

On the issue of Palestine, he said that the Islamic world could never ignore the issue, and that to do so would mean neglecting Islam. Crimes committed in southern Lebanon, he emphasised, aimed at destroying Islam.

He then referred to leakage of poisonous gas from a pesticide subsidiary of the American Union Caribide company, in Bhopal, India. He condemned the silence of the western media and Reagan on the issue, and described it as a heinous crime.

He also commented on dispatching of American marines to protect the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and said that such a tight security showed that the people of Iraq were against reopening of the embassy and renewal of its plots against the Iraqis. At the end he condemned the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and said that the Muslim people of that country have been resisting the occupying forces only through relying on Islam.

The session ended at noon and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning.

Iraq Launches Air Raid on Khuzestan Province

LD311930 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., Dec. 31, IRNA — Iraqi aerial attacks martyred one civilian and wounded four others in a

village near the border town of Bostan in Khuzestan Province today.

The wounded of the attack which took place at 12:30 AM (9:00 GMT), were immediately transferred to a hospital.

Iraqi warplanes carried out attacks on Bostan and another village near by on Sunday, martyring 18 civilians and wounding 110 others.

Warplanes Bombard Ilam Province

LD011633 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan. 1. IRNA — Iraqi planes bombarded five times residential areas in the border province of Ilam Tuesday, reports reaching here said.

Seven people were wounded in the bombing of the town of Saleh-abad and the villages of Ghalan and Einkhish, the reports said.

Iraqi planes had martyred another 19 and wounded over one hundred in raids in the southern Khuzestan Province Sunday and Monday.

Minister Promises Retaliation for Iraqi Attacks

LD011921 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorsan Pr., Jan. 1, IRNA — Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiq-Doust, said never before were Iran's Armed Forces as fit for combat as they are today.

Speaking to IRNA during a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) Today, he said the Iranian Armed Forces pursue not solely military objectives but also political ones, the most important of which is the overthrow of Saddam Husayn.

He scoffed at Saddam for saying Iraqi warplanes had bombed Iran's residential areas as a retaliatory act, saying that ever since the Islamic Republic had committed itself to a United Nations' call to stop attacks on residential areas, the Iranian forces had not conducted any attack on Iraqi civilian areas.

The IRGC minister warned however, that the latest bombings of Iran's residential areas in Khuzestan Province would not go unanswered, and the Armed Forces were waiting for an order from the Supreme Defence Council to retaliate.

He said by attacking ships in the Persian Gulf and strafing housing areas in Iran, Saddam Husayn intends to impose his own version of peace on Iran in the same manner as he imposed the war.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,958

LD311641 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA — Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants of Iran scored effective hits on Iraqi positions in the northwestern front Sunday, interrupting the activities of Iraqi infantry across all lines of contact.

Joint Staff Command Communique Number 1958 issued Monday said also that confrontation and cross fire with the Iraqi enemy continued in the border areas of Piranshah, Sardasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin where the Iraqi Army suffered an unknown number of dead and wounded, while parts of its equipment were also reported destroyed.

In the western front, Muslim combatants rained fire on Iraqi positions, paralysing their engineering activities and efforts to change units in the lines of contact.

Iranian defenders also spotted and chased enemy patrols, forcing them to flee the area.

The Iraqi Army was reported to have suffered noticeable casualties in these areas.

Meanwhile, in the southern front, Iran's Muslim troops strengthened their defensive positions and stopped enemy attempts to supply its forces or change its units, with heavy artillery barages.

The intensity of fire was reported heavest in Kushk, and Anbar River areas, and the Iraqi units were forced to flee in the vicinity of Pich-e Angizeh and Jofeyr.

Observation posts and group bunkers of the enemy soldiers were set aflame west of the Arvand River.

The city of Abadan came under sporadic Iraqi bombardment Sunday in which a number of houses were damaged.

No 1,959

LD011704 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — A military communique published here today said artillery fire was exchanged between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi forces in many of the battle-fronts in the western and southern provinces of Iran on Monday whereby the Iranian forces had inflicted damages as well as human casualties upon the Iraqi troops.

The communique released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1959 said in Hajj 'Umran the Iranian troops wrecked one 60 and another 82-mm guns of the Iraqi troops killing their crews. In an area overlooking Marivan, the Iranian soldiers wrecked five vehicles of the Iraqi troops and set ablaze several of their artillery emplacements killing some of their crews.

Elsewhere, in the western fronts, on Monday artillery fire raged heavier near Maymak and Nowsud where the Iranian forces set afire parts of the Iraqi positions killing and or wounding many of the Iraqi soldiers and checking their patrol and engineering operations.

In the southern fronts sporadic artillery fire was traded between the warring troops where the Iranian troops checked the operations of the Iraqi forces in Pich-e Angizeh, Bejliyeh, and Zobeydat. They also thwarted infiltration operations by the Iraqi forces which attempted to penetrate the Iranian defence lines on board boats west of Jofeyr, while gendarmerie troops wrecked a number of enemy positions across the Arvand River.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi fighters straffed the town of Bostan and its nearby villages in Khuzestan Province on Sunday martyring a number of civilians and wounding others and also devastating 20 private houses.

On monday the Iraqi forces shelled the city of Abadan wounding one civilian and damaging six houses.

Expected Attack Against Iraq Examined

GF012014 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jan 85

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpt] The expected Islamic attack is not a secret [word indistinct] but is a fixed fact whose time and place will be determined by knowledgeable officials. There are two basic facts: First, the refusal of the ruling regime in Iraq to respond to the conditions of the Islamic Republic to stop the war. The second is the Islamic Republic's determination to continue the war until its just conditions have been achieved.

Because all diplomatic and political attempts have reached a deadlock, a military settlement has become the only option to end the war and bring peace and stability to the region. In spite of the fact that the Islamic Republic has yielded every time to diplomatic lies, it has not abandoned its military buildup. Current preparations for military operations [words indistinct] our Islamic forces have finished their military preparations and combat readiness in weapons and mobilization a long time ago on all the fighting fronts which extend from the north to the south for almost 1200 kms.

The Baghdad regime announces constantly that it is monitoring these movements, but it says nothing new. Although the regime possesses monitoring equipment and intelligence which allow it to determine the time and the place of the attack, it has not been able to, despite its satellites and AWACS. We know that the regime is unable to determine even the hour or the day of the attack. For months, it has announced that it is waiting for the expected imminent Islamic attack.

This waiting has a negative effect on the Iraqi Army, which has been forced into the war.

Tehran Paper Notes Troop Movements to Fronts

GF020502 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 2 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] A Tehran newspaper said yesterday tens of thousands of Iranian troops were heading for the border for a "decisive battle".

The Farsi-language ISLAMIC REPUBLIC, organ of the dominant Islamic Republican Party, reported a "great flood of popular forces continuing towards the fronts to deliver the final fatal blow."

Musavi-Ardebeli on Hijackers, Tudeh Party

LD291502 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 29, IRNA — Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili Saturday spoke on the recent hijacking of a Kuwaiti airbus to Iran and said that after it was brought to an end through efforts of Iranian security officials, biased foreign media launched out on a propaganda tirade against Iran, saying the hijackers should be either tried or handed over to Kuwait.

Speaking at a press conference attended by foreign and domestic reporters, he said "This is an irrational demand," but added that if "you hand over to us those who have hijacked our planes then we will hand these hijackers over to you."

He said that hijacking was a crime punishable under Iranian laws and that the hijackers could receive a prison sentence ranging from three to fifteen years, He added, too, that other criminal acts of the hijackers could result in additional time being meted out to them, which all will be announced after the trial is over.

On the postponement of the trial of the leaders of the treacherous defunct Tudeh Party, the chief justice said that measures were being taken to put an end to the issue once and for all. Therefore, he said, since the party had a 40-year record of activities, decisions concerning the case would not be made in haste.

He said that the trial was postponed because new documents have been collected about the defunct Tudeh Party which necessitated further investigations.

Referring to present situation in prisons and pardon of prisoners, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said that at present the country was no longer faced with major terrorism by the Monafeqin or counterrevolutionaries. Therefore, he added, officials were exerting utmost efforts to reform prisoners.

The number of those being pardoned was a good indication of the success record of prison authorities in rehabilitating prisoners and more would be pardoned on the occasion of Feb. 11, the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, he added.

Speaking on OPEC's stance towards the plots engineered by Britain and Norway to force down oil prices he said that such plots did not merely have economic implications but political as well.

The chief justice stressed that therefore, OPEC should further realise its true power and fight firmly against these plots.

Speaking on the recently concluded session of foreign affairs ministers of Islamic Conference Organisation in Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic, Ayatollah Ardebili said that the participants failed to make constructive, revolutionary and Islamic decisions.

Chief Justice Blames Monafeqin for Tehran Blast

LD011912 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Pr., Jan. 1 IRNA — Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi-Ardebili said today that "apparently" the monafeqin were responsible for last week's bomb explosion in downtown Tehran, which martyred at least six people and injured tens of others.

He said the monafeqin had taken responsibility for the bomb, but he added, their action would backfire on themselves.

The ayatollah who was speaking at a press conference in Shiraz, said elsewhere that a group of prisoners would be granted amnesty on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Islamic revolution on February 11, but noted also that prison terms are often commuted on other Islamic grounds as well.

He also said a new bill on press activities had been presented to the Majlis.

Commerce Minister, Turkish Envoy Discuss Trade

LD311941 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA — In a meeting with the Iranian minister of commerce, Hassan Abedi-Ja'fari, here today, the Turkish ambassador to Tehran, Ismet Birsel, called for an increase in trade between Iran and Turkey.

In response the Iranian minister suggested that Turkish producers and manufacturers make their best effort to supply quality goods at internationally competitive prices to Iran.

He said the two countries should also make sure to fulfill their trade commitments on time.

Abedi-Ja'fari also spoke in support of a permanent committee for economic and trade cooperation set up by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Gharazi: OPEC Meeting Strengthens Oil Market

LD011749 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — Iran's Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said the decision by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to set up a strict policing system on oil prices and production showed OPEC is "coherent and organised within", despite international pressure. Gharazi also said the price of Iranian crude oil was set on the basis of "the state of war, the location of the Khark Island (oil terminal) and the Persian Gulf" in order to make it more "competitive" with other OPEC members.

However, at the same time, he denied any change in Iran's oil price, set by OPEC.

"Iran totally accepts the base oil price set by OPEC and will not make any changes in the price of its various grades of crude oil," Gharazi said.

Gharazi was speaking at a press conference Tuesday upon his return from an OPEC year-end meeting from December 27-29 in Geneva.

He said the oil market had strengthened after OPEC's latest meeting. He predicted that because of the meeting's outcome, the market would show even better signs in favour of OPEC in the coming months.

Gharazi said he was optimistic that the price differentials of heavy and extra-light crude oils could be adjusted further than what OPEC members agreed upon.

Asked about another possible cut in oil prices by the north sea oil producers, he said this would have a more negative impact on an already weak sterling currency and thus Britain was unlikely to embark on such a move.

However, he added, "in case of an oil price war by the North Sea (oil producers) or even the Soviet Union, OPEC would resist and confront them."

Iraqi Security Forces Arrest Al-Basrah Students

LD291142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] According to a report from Iraq, following the recent wave of arrests of Iraqi Muslim youth because of their cooperation with Iraqi Muslim counterrevolutionaries, another group of young Muslims has been arrested in and around Al-Basrah by the security forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime. According to this report, 12 persons, including three students, were arrested and taken to unknown destinations.

Clandestine Broadcast on Tabriz Demonstrations

GF010802 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent in Tabriz, during last week's Friday prayer ceremonies, after the sermons were delivered just before the end of the proceedings, a group of about (?500) people suddenly disrupted the crowd when they started chanting "The supreme commander of the forces is [Imam] Hoseyn." At the end of the proceedings, the mullah who leads the prayers usually forces people to pray for his imam and the Muslim nation's well-being, and are made to shout chants. The people who started the chants moved toward the city's bazaar and were followed by hundreds of Tabrizis, who also took up the chants. Our correspondent adds that this slogan was raised

by the people of Tabriz in opposition to the slogan "The supreme commander of the forces is Khomeyni." Copies of the slogan have been appearing on the walls of the city ever since the Arba'in mourning period, and the city's guards and committees have so far been unable to destroy all of them. During the Tabriz Friday prayers when the crowd began its chants, the guards moved to attack the chanters but were ordered to stop by the prayer leader.

According to our latest report from Tabriz, a number of the people who participated in the chants were identified, persecuted and are being interrogated by the so-called Islamic committees.

Clandestine Radio: New Offensive Against Iraq Set
GF010803 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] According to the latest news from Tehran, the regime of the mullahs is preparing for a new adventurist attack against the Iraqi borders. They are doing this despite the opposition of the majority of the Armed Forces commanders and (?even the guards).

Three days ago, satellite pictures revealed convoys of military forces and armored columns moving toward the western and southern borders of the country, which are the fronts of the Iran-Iraq war. Military experts and Armed Forces commanders and officers — for a variety of reasons including a shortage of technical personnel, material and spare parts as well as insufficient personnel — have been resisting the foolish and showy decision of the ruling mullahs for 5 and ½ months. Now we haveheard that yesterday, Colonels Sorabi, Sayyad-Shirazi and Seddiq were ordered to start a new offensive as soon as possible. T h i s order was given during their meeting with Khomeyni and his president, 'Ali Khamene'i.

It has already been agreed that given the current logistical situation and the low morale of the Armed Forces personnel, who have been repeatedly defeated in the war of attrition, our Army has not been able to carry out a fresh attack against Iraq. Should the mullahs insist on an attack the result will be nothing but thousands of dead and the loss of the last remaining combat capabilities of the Army.

Clandestine Radio: Khomeyni Worried Over Mashhad
GF010801 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The unrest in Mashhad and this city's popular opposition to the regime of the mullahs has caused such a level of worry and fear among the officials of the regime that Ruhollah Khomeyni has ordered his main agent in Mashhad to come to Tehran for some explanations.

In support of this information, we note that the media of the regime are today reporting a meeting between the representative of the ruler of Jamaran, who is also in charge of the holy shrine of the eighth imam, and his master in Jamaran after his hasty arrival in Tehran. As usual, the regime's media did not offer any explanation about the meeting. However, political observers and even ordinary people are certain that the sudden summoning of Va'ez-Tabasi to Tehran by Khomeyni is directly related to the unrest and the escalation of the situation in Mashhad.